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23 November 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Consultant for Cuba - Edward G. Tichborn (P)

1. Following the receipt of an affirmative ^{of} reply in regards to Mr. Tichborn, I talked on 16 November with Messrs. Tucker, Oberst, and Landreth of WH Division and we decided that I should get in touch with Tichborn and try to arrange for him to go to Cuba as soon as possible. The same day I contacted Tichborn by phone and arranged for a meeting in Los Angeles on 13 November.

2. As scheduled, I met with Mr. Tichborn at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles on 13 November. We reviewed the situation in Cuba in some detail and I asked him if he would be available to make a TDY trip to Cuba to investigate possibilities of our coalescence of the non-Communist opposition to Fidel Castro into a political organization. Tichborn stated that he was most desirous of going, however, he said that the question came at a particularly unfortunate time as he had just been retained by the Mexican Government to bring a civil suit against those contractors in the U. S. who sub-contract migratory Mexican workers. It would appear that according to the agreements reached between the contractors and the labor forces, the contractors are allowed to deduct the cost of subsistence on a maximum of \$1.75 per day, from the wages paid the laborers. Although in most instances subsistence costs considerably less than \$1.75 a day, contractors have been withholding the maximum amount. The Mexican Government on behalf of the laborers are planning to bring suit against the contractors for the difference between actual subsistence costs and the amount withheld. Tichborn stated that, of course this would be a lengthy affair, however, he felt that two to three weeks will be ample time for him to draw together an initial proposal as to how the suit should be conducted and present it to the Mexican ^{of} Government at which time he thought he would be free to make a trip to Cuba for us. I also had Tichborn sign a standard consultants contract and gave him the cover company to which he should address his overt bills. I pointed out to him what when he was actually sent outside the country on TDY, we would have to negotiate and amend the contract which would call for payment for his expenses plus a fee for his services. I asked him to think about what he would have to charge for his services, at the same time I pointed out our pay scale was quite low but that I thought I could get him something in the neighborhood of \$1500 for a month's work, reminding him that this sum represented \$18,000 per year which was the top salary for a government official. Tichborn said that he appreciated the difficulties inherent in this type of thing and that he would need some time to think over what he would have to charge without subjecting himself to an undue financial hardship.

3. I was much impressed with Tichborn's immediate grasp of the difficulties involved and the type of operation I proposed for him to undertake. He immediately came forth with one idea which struck me as quite


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good. He pointed out that one of the first revolutions to take place in modern times was the Mexican revolution of Pancho Villa. He said that his family had been intimately connected with this revolution and that he found many points of similarity between the aftermath of the Mexican Revolution -- nationalization, agrarian reform -- and Castro's present movements. He pointed out that this was not a surprising situation as Castro himself spent a considerable amount of time in Cuba and it would be natural that some of his actions should follow this pattern. In addition to the above, Tichborn came up with a number of suggestions which I believe can best be gone into at any briefing sessions held between WH and Tichborn. One point which particularly impressed me was Tichborn's appreciation of the situation, also his early recognition of the fact that one of our prime targets should be members of the 26 July Movement who have become disenchanted as a result of Castro's demagogic actions.

4. In order to save time and to allow Tichborn to give the matter enough thought, I intend to propose to WH Division that Tichborn come east next week for two or three days, to discuss the Cuban situation with representatives of WH. At the end of this, he will return to Los Angeles, get the case underway and hopefully will be available to go to Cuba right after the first of January. As soon as I have cleared this with WH, I shall have the travel orders written and ask Tichborn to come east.


Horacio W. Davis
Acting Chief
Political Action Division

cc/Mr. Dahlgren-WH

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